



Federal Highway Administration

FACT SHEET

Telecommuting

People are finding out why it makes sense to telecommute. You have more time on your hands if they aren't on the wheel! Instead of fighting traffic, you have more time for your family and hobbies...or for work. Plus, you'll help to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution, which means you'll save more than just time and money.

Here are some telecommuting facts to consider:

- Americans spend more than 100 hours commuting from home to work each year, equal to 2½ weeks of vacation! If you consider a round-trip, this doubles. (The average daily one-way commute takes about 25 minutes.)¹
- Telecommuting—just **one day a week** for a year—can save the typical commuter about 1,200 miles on his or her vehicle and more than 58 gallons of gas. If your commute is more than the average 25 miles roundtrip, you could save even more time, money, and gas!²
- The typical “peak period” traveler uses an extra 28 gallons of fuel per year due to inefficient vehicle operation in congested conditions.³
- A National Household Travel Survey showed that commuting has declined as a share of all vehicle trips—from nearly 33% in 1969 to less than 15% 30 years later—so it's important to look beyond your commuting trips for ways to reduce driving.⁴

There's a nationwide initiative to encourage employers to offer their employees a broad range of commuting options, including telecommuting. It's called Best Workplaces for Commuters (BWC). In addition to saving time and money, BWC employers and employees report high rates of productivity, strong morale, and less stress trying to juggle family and work commitments. So, ask about it at work. (Visit <http://www.bestworkplaces.org/index.htm> for more information.)

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey; http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/american_community_survey_acs/004489.html

² Original research done for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) using data from FHWA's Highway Statistics 2001 (October 2002), Pub #FHWA-PL-02-008 (Table VM-1 <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/hs01/pdf/vm1.pdf>), and National Household Travel Survey 2001 <http://nhts.ornl.gov/2001/index.shtml>. Gas savings calculated using the average commuting distance of 12.19 miles each way multiplied by 96 eliminated trips

(one trip each way for 48 weeks), then divided by the average vehicle's 20 MPG fuel economy. Substitute your own commute and fuel economy to estimate your gas savings.

³ Schrank, David and Lomax T., 2005 Urban Mobility Report, Texas Transportation Institute, <http://mobility.tamu.edu/ums/>.

⁴ Federal Highway Administration, National Household Travel Survey 2001: Highlights Report, BTS03-05 (Washington, DC: 2003)

http://www.bts.gov/publications/highlights_of_the_2001_national_household_travel_survey/ (Table A-11).